



THE ENTOMOLOGICAL FAUNA OF NAURU ISLAND,
OF THE OCEAN ISLAND GROUP.

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Nauru is an isolated island almost on the equator, lying about 150 miles north-west of Ocean Island. It was known as Pleasant Island before it was included in the group of different islands comprising the German zone, when the name was changed to Nauru; while in some of the charts it is called Nawada Island. It is much larger than Ocean Island, measuring thirteen miles in circumference, but has no great elevation above the sea. It has a small native population, and a fair growth of vegetation, comprising some coconut groves, with mangroves, and pandanus on the water's edge. The vegetation in general is low and scrubby, with scattered "mangoni" trees growing on the better land; the open country is well grassed. Both Ocean and Nauru Islands contain very rich deposits of phosphates, so that there is a comparatively large population at work upon them at the present time.

The insects herein noted, were obtained by Mr. F. W. Steel, and are chiefly intrusive, having been introduced with timber and produce, though several are cosmopolitan in their range. Mr. Steel informs me, however, that the material furnished does not represent the whole of the insect-fauna, as there are many dragonflies to be found round a lagoon or lake occupying the centre of the island; and that mosquitoes are very troublesome at times. Butterflies were rare, though he noticed a good many different species of moths. Among the specimens received were three diptera; but these have not yet been identified.

ORTHOPTERA.

Family FORFICULIDÆ.

CHELISOCHES MORIO Fabr.

This earwig is common to many of the Pacific islands. It is slender, shining, and black, measuring up to an inch in length, with the antennæ and apical segments of the abdomen shaded with reddish-brown; the forceps long, slender, and toothed in the male.

Kirby* gives the range Otaheite, India to New Guinea. Dr. Burr, to whom I am indebted for the identification, says—“This species is exceedingly abundant and widely distributed throughout the Oriental regions.” It is very common in the Pacific Islands, abundant in the Sandwich Islands; and is spreading artificially, as I have specimens from East Africa; and it has been taken in Kew Gardens. During my recent visit to the Solomon Islands I found it very plentiful upon the trunks of the young coconut palms, sheltering under the bases of the leaf-stalks.

ANISOLABRIS ANNULIPES Luc.

This is another cosmopolitan species, ranging from Europe, across India, to the Islands of the Pacific. The specimens were immature, but Dr. Burr says they belong to this species.

Family BLATTIDÆ.

PERIPLANETA AUSTRALASIE Fabr.

This cosmopolitan species was described from Australia in 1775; it is comparatively rare in this country, but is the common domestic cockroach of Florida, and other of the Southern States. It has a wide range over the Pacific Islands.

PYCNOSCELUS SURINAMENSIS Linn.

Originally described from Surinam, it has since been redescribed under half a dozen other specific names. Mr. Shelford says of

* Brit. Mus. Cat. Orthoptera, i., p. 33.

it—"A cosmopolitan, slightly variable species." I have received it, in company with the last, from several of the Pacific Islands, the Carolinas, and Tonga.

COLEOPTERÆ.

Family HYDROPHILIDÆ.

DACTYLOSTERNUM ABDOMINALE Fabr.

This beetle has a very wide range through the Australian and Oriental regions, and is common on the Mediterranean. Mr. J. J. Walker says—"I have taken it at Gibraltar. It is probably disseminated by commerce, as it lives in rubbish and decaying vegetable matter; and I should not be surprised if it turned up some day in England." It is a small, shining, black beetle, with reddish-brown antennæ and palpi; and the elytra marked with fine, parallel, punctate striæ. Length about $\frac{1}{5}$ inch.

XYLOPERTHA sp.

This handsome little Bostrychid beetle was submitted, with others, for identification, to Mr. J. J. Walker, who furnished the following note—"This is a common Australian Bostrychid, near the genus *Xylopertha*, if not actually belonging to it." He could not determine the species, however. Mr. A. M. Lea, of Hobart, who also examined it, said it was unknown to him.

Head and thorax black, with the front of the latter covered with fine rugose points on either side, and finely punctured in the centre, the rest of the upper surface finely rugose. Legs and elytra reddish-brown, the latter very finely and closely punctured, furnished with a fine flange round the outer margin. Length $\frac{1}{8}$ inch.

TROGOSITA (TENEBROIDES) MAURITANICA Linn.

There are a number of specimens of the world-wide flour-beetle from Nauru. This curious, flattened, shining, black beetle has been redescribed under a number of different names; and has been spread all over the civilised world, with flour and grain, the

latter being the favourite food of the larva. It is known as the "Cadelle" in France. Both the beetle and its curious larva were figured by me in the Agricultural Gazette of N. S. Wales (October, 1898) from specimens obtained in wheat in Sydney.

OTIORRHYNCHUS sp.

The genus to which this weevil belongs, is a very large one, containing a great number of different species. Mr. J. J. Walker examined the collections in the Hope Museum, at Oxford, without finding anything like it. He then sent it to Mr. Gahan, of the British Museum, and afterwards wrote.— "Neither Mr. Gahan nor I could find anything, even generically near it, in the large series of these found at the Museum; and it is probably something quite new. I do not remember anything like it in the Australian beetle-fauna." Mr. Lea says, "This is close to several European species of *Otiorrhynchus* in my collection, but I have nothing exactly like it."

It measures $\frac{1}{3}$ inch in length, and is of a general shining greyish-brown tint, with reddish legs and antennæ; clothed with fine white pubescence. The head from above the eyes to the jaws is finely punctured; thorax finely but irregularly punctured; elytra marked with fine, parallel striæ, with the edge of the elytra produced into fine serrate spines along the outer edge, but absent at the extreme tip.

HYMENOPTERA.

Fam. FORMICIDÆ.

Only one species, a very small red ant, was obtained; about twenty examples were received, without any information about its habits. Specimens were sent to Dr. A. Forel, who has described it as a new species, *Prenolepis*(*Nylanderia*) *Steele* Forel, "Formicides Australiens reçus de MM. Froggatt et Rowland Turner." *Revue Suisse Zool.: Ann. Soc. Zool. Suisse et du Mus. d' Hist. Nat. de Genève.* Tome xviii., fasc.1, p.69, 1910.